

NEWS

For Immediate Release

**United States
Department
of Agriculture**

Forest Service

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SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT, Cibola National Forest

Fuels Reduction/Prescribed Burn Update

BONITA CANYON PRESCRIBED BURN

Tijeras, NM, March 27, 2003 - The Sandia Ranger District will be continuing the fuels reduction project in the Bonita Canyon area next week. There are approximately 550 acres that are planned for treatment with prescribed fire. The area is broken into 5 units ranging in size from approximately 75 acres to 160 acres.

This project is a continuation of the successful prescribed burning program on the Sandia Ranger District. The burning helps us decrease the accumulation of vegetation thus minimizing the risk of a catastrophic wildfire in the neighboring communities. Other benefits include improving forest health and wildlife habitat.

With the current weather conditions and extended weather forecast, conditions are optimal for prescribed burning. The Sandia District will continue implementing these prescribed burn projects, weather permitting. The New Mexico State Forestry, Inmate Work Camp Program and Bernalillo County will assist with the prescribed burns.

Another project currently being implemented on the Sandia Ranger District is the Juan Tomas Road (Heatherland II) fuelbreak. New Mexico State Forestry Inmate Work Camp Program is assisting District personnel thinning and chipping approximately 200 feet along the Juan Tomas Road.

We appreciate the support during these prescribed burn projects and welcome any comments or questions.

For more information and to be added to our e-mail notification list contact the Sandia Ranger District 281-3304.

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